

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 25-30 are pending. Claims 1-7, 11-13, 27-30 are rejected. Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 11, 25, 28, 30 have been amended. Claims 8-10 and 14-24 have been cancelled.

Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 11-13, and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner stated that

...it is unclear if the socket is located on the second device, the carrier, or on another element of the invention. It is further unclear if the: "one or more conductive areas" recited in lines 4-5, are part of the socket, or the second device. In addition, it is further unclear what are the elements forming the "electromagnetic coupler", and if it is a separate element from the "coupler region".

(Office Action, 10/03/03).

As it is known in the art, an electromagnetic coupler comprises a piece of dielectric material, for example, air between two conductive elements, such that the conductive elements are not in physical contact with each other. A socket is a mechanism used to position (align) one or more conductive areas of a first device relative to one or more conductive areas of a second device to form an electromagnetic coupler (see Specification, p.22-23, and Figs. 13-20). Thus, the socket facilitates creation of the coupler region, where the electromagnetic coupling occurs. Applicants amended claims 1, 3, 6-7, 11, 25, 28, and 30 accordingly to clarify the above issues.

With regard to claim 3, the Examiner noted that it is unclear where exactly the opening is located with respect to the rest of the elements.

The position of the opening on the second device with respect to the coupler region and the socket is defined by the position of the correspondent post on the first device. The purpose of the post is to secure the alignment between the first and second devices (see, for example, Specification, line 22 lines 5-11). Overall, the location of the opening on the second device is defined by the specific design of the second device to which the first device is coupled. Applicants believe it would unnecessary limit the scope of the claim to specify a specific location for such an opening.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 6-7, 11, 25, 28 and 30 and correspondent dependent claims 2-5, 12-13, 26-27, 29 comply with § 112, second paragraph, and therefore request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 11-13, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,197,888 of William I. Brodsky et al. ("Brodsky").

Brodsky discloses a method of positioning flexible circuit members on a common circuit member for electrical connector assemblies. A flexible circuit member includes an array of contact elements on a flexible circuitized substrate 13 (Brodsky, col. 3, lines 57-64). Also, the flexible circuit member includes a pair of reference pins to position the flexible member within a common circuit member 11 (Brodsky, col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 5). The common member comprises arrays of contact elements 17 located on a dielectric substrate of the common member (Brodsky, col. 5, lines 55-59). In addition, the common member is fit into a metallic frame.

Further, a pair of reference points is drilled on the frame. Then, the coordinates of contact arrays on the common member relative to the reference points are calculated and location

apertures are drilled on the frame. According to Brodsky, each pair of location apertures identifies the position of each array on the common member. Location apertures are designed to receive a pair of the locating pins of flexible circuit members (Brodsky, col. 6, line 27 to col. 7, line 28).

Amended claim 1 includes the following elements:

An apparatus comprising:

a first device comprising a carrier having one or more conductive areas; and a socket to mount the first device relative to a second device, the second device having one or more conductive areas positioned by the socket with respect to the one or more conductive areas of the carrier, to form the electromagnetic coupler, wherein the socket defining an electromagnetic coupler region in which the carrier is inserted to align the carrier relative to the second device. (emphasis added)

Unlike Brodsky, the presently claimed invention discloses an interconnect mechanism for an electromagnetic coupler. An electromagnetic coupler, contrary to an electrical connection, is defined as having a dielectric (for example, air) between two conductive elements, such that the conductive elements are not in physical contact with each other. Brodsky does not disclose, teach or suggest a first device comprising a carrier to form a portion of an electromagnetic coupler, as recited in claim 1. Brodsky also does not disclose, teach or suggest a socket comprising a coupler region in which the carrier is inserted to align the carrier relative to the second device, as recited in claim 1. Rather, Brodsky merely teaches how to precisely align elements of the contact arrays of two devices relative to one another by calculating and drilling location apertures and utilizing reference pins (Brodsky, col.6-7).

Independent claims 11, 17, 25, and 28 include the language similar to claim 1.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that as amended, independent claims 1, 11, 17, 25, and 28 are not anticipated by Brodsky under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b). Dependent claims 2-7, 12-13, 18-24, 26-27,29-30 include all features of correspondent independent claims and further limit

them. Therefore, for at least the same reasons advanced above with respect to independent claims, dependent claims 2-7, 12-13, 18-24, 26-27, 29-30 are not anticipated by Brodsky.

Thus, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 11-13, 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10, 14-23, 27, and 28-37 as amended are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 2-2-04

By: M. Portnova
Marina Portnova
Reg. No. 45,750

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8598